

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES - B.A.

College of Arts and Sciences
School of Peace and Conflict Studies
www.kent.edu/spcs

About This Program

Make a difference in the world with Kent State's Bachelor of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies. Our program explores issues of peace and conflict from interdisciplinary perspectives, empowering you to become a positive force for change in your community and beyond. Enroll now and become a peacebuilder. Read more...

Contact Information

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- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Arbitrators, mediators, and conciliators

- 7.7% faster than the average
- 7,300 number of jobs
- \$66,130 potential earnings

Community and social service specialists, all other

- 11.7% much faster than the average
- 105,200 number of jobs
- \$46,770 potential earnings

Lawyers

- 4.0% about as fast as the average
- 813,900 number of jobs
- \$126,930 potential earnings

Human resources managers

- 6.3% faster than the average
- 165,200 number of jobs
- \$121,220 potential earnings

Human resources specialists

- 7.0% faster than the average
- 666,500 number of jobs
- \$63,490 potential earnings

Postsecondary teachers, all other

- 2.0% slower than the average
- 245,900 number of jobs
- \$71,950 potential earnings

Social and community service managers

- 17.0% much faster than the average
- 175,500 number of jobs
- \$69,600 potential earnings

Social scientists and related workers, all other

- 0.8% little or no change
- 38,800 number of jobs
- \$87,260 potential earnings

Social workers, all other

- 5.1% faster than the average
- 62,500 number of jobs
- \$64,210 potential earnings

Additional Careers

- Professionals in business or finance (purchasing/sales/management/insurance/banking/financial advising)
- Community organizers, activists, and social justice advocates
- Corporate social responsibility and donor relations specialists
- Diplomats and peacemakers
- Humanitarian aid and development workers
- Law enforcement officers
- Transitional justice practitioners
- Government officials and public servants
- Ministers and clergy

Careers Requiring Additional Education

- Lawyers
- Social workers, all other
- Postsecondary teachers, all other
- Social scientists and related workers, all other

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

First-Year Students on the Kent Campus: First-year admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon cumulative grade point average, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. Students not admissible to the Kent Campus may be administratively referred to one of the seven regional campuses to begin their college coursework. For more information, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

First-Year Students on the Regional Campuses: First-year admission to Kent State's campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information on admissions, contact the Regional Campuses admissions offices.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning a minimum 525 TOEFL score (71 on the Internet-based version), minimum 75 MELAB score, minimum 6.0 IELTS score or minimum 48 PTE Academic score, or by completing the ELS level 112 Intensive Program. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Transfer Students: Students who have attended any other educational institution after graduating from high school must apply as undergraduate transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Former Students: Former Kent State students or graduates who have not attended another college or university since Kent State may complete the reenrollment or reinstatement form on the University Registrar's website.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog's Academic Policies.

Some programs may require that students meet certain requirements before progressing through the program. For programs with progression requirements, the information is shown on the program's Coursework tab.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
|--|---|--------------|
| Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA) | | |
| PACS 11001 | INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (DIVD) (KSS) | 3 |
| PACS 31002 | GENDER, POWER AND CONFLICT | 3 |
| PACS 31003 | NONVIOLENCE: THEORY AND PRACTICE | 3 |
| PACS 31010 | CONFLICT THEORY | 3 |
| PACS 32030 | INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION (DIVG) | 3 |
| PACS 35092 | INTERNSHIP IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (ELR) ^{1,2} | 3 |
| PACS 41010 | RECONCILIATION VERSUS REVENGE: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE (DIVG) (WIC) ³ | 3 |
| PACS 48080 | MEDIATION: THEORY AND TRAINING | 3 |
| Major Electives, choose from the following: ² | | |
| PACS 30000 | MAY 4 1970 AND ITS AFTERMATH | |
| PACS 32020 | STRATEGIC PLANNING | |
| PACS 32040 | CROSS-CULTURAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (DIVG) | |
| PACS 33030 | CONFLICT IN THE WORKPLACE | |

| | |
|------------|---|
| PACS 34010 | CAREER PATHWAYS IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES |
| PACS 35050 | ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION |
| PACS 35095 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES |
| PACS 40089 | INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (DIVG) (ELR) |
| PACS 40090 | STUDY AWAY: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (ELR) |
| PACS 44040 | NEGOTIATION |
| PACS 45050 | COMMUNITY ORGANIZING: PEOPLE, POWER AND PEACEFUL CHANGE |
| PACS 49091 | VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES |

Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------|
| UC 10001 | FLASHES 101 | 1 |
| Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below) | | 14-16 |
| Kent Core Composition | | 6 |
| Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning | | 3 |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each) | | 9 |
| Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines) | | 3 |
| Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory) | | 6-7 |
| Kent Core Additional | | 6 |
| General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours) | | 39 |

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120

¹ Maximum 3 credit hours of PACS 35092 may count toward the major. Students may enroll in 1-9 additional credit hours, which can count toward upper-division credit hours.

² Students who have completed the Columbus Program in State Issues or the Washington Program in National Issues (total 15 credit hours for POL 41990 or POL 42990, respectively) may substitute 3 credit hours for PACS 35092 and 6 credit hours for major electives. The remaining 6 credit hours may be used to fulfill the upper-division requirement and/or as course substitutions for required courses. Course substitutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with a program faculty advisor.

³ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

Graduation Requirements

| Minimum Major GPA | Minimum Overall GPA |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2.000 | 2.000 |

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language.¹ To complete the requirement, students need the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options²:

- Intermediate I and II of the same language
- Elementary I and II of a second language
- Any combination of two courses from the following list:

- Intermediate I of the same language
- ARAB 21401
- ASL 19401
- CHIN 25421

- MCLS 10001
- MCLS 20001
- MCLS 20091
- MCLS 21417
- MCLS 21420
- MCLS 22217
- MCLS 28403
- MCLS 28404

¹ All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and fewer courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University; or (3) demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language. When students complete the requirement with fewer than 14 credit hours and four courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

² Certain majors, concentrations and minors may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular language coursework.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

| Semester One | Credits |
|---|-----------|
| UC 10001 FLASHES 101 | 1 |
| Foreign Language | 4 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Credit Hours | 14 |
| Semester Two | |
| Foreign Language | 4 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Credit Hours | 13 |
| Semester Three | |
| Foreign Language | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| Credit Hours | 15 |
| Semester Four | |
| PACS 11001 INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (DIVD) (KSS) | 3 |
| Foreign Language | 3 |
| Kent Core Requirement | 3 |
| General Electives | 6 |
| Credit Hours | 15 |

| Semester Five | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------|
| PACS 31002 | GENDER, POWER AND CONFLICT | 3 |
| PACS 31010 | CONFLICT THEORY | 3 |
| PACS 32030 | INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION (DIVG) | 3 |
| General Electives | | 6 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |

| Semester Six | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------|
| PACS 41010 | RECONCILIATION VERSUS REVENGE: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE (DIVG) (WIC) | 3 |
| PACS 48080 | MEDIATION: THEORY AND TRAINING | 3 |
| Major Elective | | 3 |
| General Electives | | 6 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |

| Third Summer Term | | |
|---------------------|--|----------|
| PACS 35092 | INTERNSHIP IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (ELR) | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 3 |

| Semester Seven | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| PACS 31003 | NONVIOLENCE: THEORY AND PRACTICE | 3 |
| Major Elective | | 3 |
| General Electives | | 9 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |

| Semester Eight | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|
| Major Elective | | 3 |
| General Electives | | 12 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Minimum Total Credit Hours: | | 120 |

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Flashes 101 (UC 10001) | 1 credit hour |
| Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission. | |
| Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG) | 2 courses |
| Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core. | |
| Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR) | varies |
| Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience. | |
| Kent Core (see table below) | 36-37 credit hours |
| Writing-Intensive Course (WIC) | 1 course |
| Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course. | |
| Upper-Division Requirement | 39 credit hours |
| Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. | |
| Total Credit Hour Requirement | 120 credit hours |

Kent Core Requirements

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Kent Core Composition (KCOMP) | 6 |
| Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR) | 3 |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each) | 9 |
| Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines) | 6 |
| Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory) | 6-7 |
| Kent Core Additional (KADL) | 6 |
| Total Credit Hours: | 36-37 |

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the research and analytical skills that will be useful while working in the field of peace studies and conflict management.
2. Analyze the dynamics of social conflicts and apply the principles of nonviolent theory and practice in order to wage conflict constructively to bring about social or political change.
3. Utilize conflict management and peace-building skills and knowledge to effectively develop, teach and/or implement approaches to preventing, managing and resolving conflicts.
4. Demonstrate an ability to identify and analyze the cultural dimensions of conflicts and conflict management.
5. Describe and interpret the roles that gendered power dynamics play in conflicts and conflict management.
6. Demonstrate a broad grounding in the field of peace and conflict studies by being able to explain the historical evolution of the field, by identifying and analyzing a full range of conflict dynamics and by designing constructive and appropriate intervention tactics and strategies.
7. Demonstrate an ability to explain the main theories on causes, expression and consequences of international conflicts, and comparatively evaluate different mechanisms of prevention, management and resolution of international conflicts.

Full Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Peace and Conflict Studies prepares students for careers or graduate study in the field of conflict management, peace studies and dispute resolution. This major gives students a solid background in managing conflicts in constructive, not destructive, ways. Students learn skills that are not only useful in a variety of workplace settings, but in everyday life and relationships as well.

Program areas of focus include mediation, negotiation, environmental conflict resolution, international conflict resolution, workplace conflict management, nonviolent action and community organizing. As this is an applied program, students learn skills and build professional networks through the internship, which can be completed in a wide variety of contexts.

Students may apply early to the M.A. degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and double count 9 credit hours of graduate courses toward both degree programs. See the Combined Bachelor's/Master's Degree Program policy in the University Catalog for more information.